

making: a Chief Judge who reports directly to the Commissioner. The bill will improve leadership, efficiency and quality in the ALJ hearings component of SSA by eliminating the possibility of detrimental political struggles between the Chief Judge and other subordinate leaders within SSA, which will prevent changes in the ALJ hearing process that are motivated by the negative force of intra-agency infighting and ensure that the American public receives fair constitutional due process hearings.

Establishment of the office of Administrative Law Judges within SSA significantly would increase the speed and quality of the disposition of Social Security Act claims for the American public and increase public trust and confidence in the integrity and independence of decisionmaking by SSA ALJS. This effort should be a bipartisan activity of the Congress in the interest of good government, and to that end, I invite my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring this bill and in making the office of Administrative Law Judges within SSA a reality this year.

REFLECTIONS ON 9/11

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a student in my district, Craig Halbrooks, who is the grandson of Judge Larry Craig, a great friend and respected judge in Smith County. Judge Craig brought to my attention his grandson's poem, which reflects on September 11. This poem—written by a 14-year-old—captures the sentiments of many Americans and many of our youth regarding that terrible day in our nation's history, and I would like to share it with this body:

On September 11, 2001 the United States was struck with an act of terror
With the Afghanistan leaders responsible,
soon there would be nothing there.
Why would some do such a thing?
Take their lives to destroy another's, what could they be thinking?
Nearly four months later, the tears still flow
and emotions run high
Why did these people have to hurt so many lives?
As we board planes, subways, and even a bus
We wonder just exactly who we can trust.
It matters little whether Christian, Muslim
or Jew
We wonder what each is capable to do.
We look around us on the ground and in the sky
Wondering who will be the next to die.
Will it be a child, family or friend?
When will this scary stuff end?
I'm so glad that we have a President who
Strives to protect even me and you.

IN MEMORY OF AUBREY LEE
MCALISTER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Aubrey Lee

McAlister, who passed away around this time last year—May 15th, 2001. I still think of him often. He was 89. Audrey was a distinguished reporter, war veteran, caring community leader and beloved husband and father. He and his wife, Aubrey, were dear personal friends—ones we visited with often.

Aubrey was born on October 5, 1911 in Walters, Oklahoma. Even as a young teenager he showed his eagerness to work in journalism spending his after-school afternoons learning to operate printing equipment and type setting as a printer's devil in the local paper's office.

After High School, Aubrey went to Cameron College and transferred to Oklahoma State University, where he received his degree in journalism. At the outbreak of World War II, Aubrey enlisted in the US Navy, even though he was exempt from the draft. As a Navy enlisted correspondent he served in the Pacific theater aboard the USS *Colorado*, a vessel that participated in the battle for Okinawa.

Aubrey moved to Bonham in 1955 when he bought the Bonham Daily Favorite, a local newspaper, with a partner. He served as its publisher until 1976. Across the state he was active as a member of the board of the Texas Press Association. He served as the President of the TPA in 1964.

Within the community, he served as an elder and a deacon of his church, the First Presbyterian Church, and was a long-time and active member of Rotary International. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and had served as president of two different clubs. In 1964, he was named East Texas Chamber of Commerce Man of the Month and the Bonham Chamber of Commerce named him the town's Outstanding Citizen. He also served as the chairman of the Bonham Water Authority, which oversaw building a community water reservoir. He helped organize the city's first planning and zoning commission and was chairman of the Fannin County Fair.

Most of all, Aubrey was a loving father and husband who always showed his kindness to others. He was survived by his wife, Audrey; one son, Don McAlister; a granddaughter, Sara Delao; and his brother, Ray McAlister. Mr. Speaker, we will miss him but always remember him as a beloved community leader and kind man who gave a lot to East Texas—Aubrey Lee McAlister.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
REVEREND S. AMOS BRACKEEN 2D

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Rev. S. Amos Brackeen 2d, 83, a social activist, and founder of the Philippian Baptist Church, who recently died after providing more than four decades of spiritual and civic leadership in Philadelphia.

From the time Rev. Brackeen arrived in our city in 1959 to become pastor of Jones Memorial Baptist Church, he was recognized as a theological activist.

In the early 60's he stood on street corners with civil rights leaders and demanded accountability from the Philadelphia Police Department when a white officer shot and killed

an African American man suspected of shoplifting. He was appointed by the Mayor to a committee helped to expose racial disparities in the payment of city workers.

As a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity, Rev. Brackeen fought discriminatory practices by city labor unions. He also led the North Philadelphia Human Relations Committee, which sought to improve relations between police and the residents of North Philadelphia.

While continuing the fight for equality for African Americans, he also focused on the importance of economic equity. In that regard he became part of an effort that established an African American owned bank in Philadelphia.

In 1965, he founded Philippian Baptist Church in the First Congressional District with less than a hundred members. Today, there are 1,500 congregants.

However, his theology went beyond America's shores. As treasurer of the Baptist Foreign Missions Bureau, he gathered support from his congregation to help build a church in Nigeria, West Africa and a church and school in Haiti. He also sponsored the establishment of the Philippian Baptist Home Mission for Haitians newly migrated to Philadelphia.

While Rev. Brackeen was born in Port Arthur, Texas, the son of the town's first African American physician, his adopted City of Philadelphia has been enriched and spiritually fed by this progressive and dynamic child of God and leader of the faithful. I know my colleagues will join me in expressing my condolences to his loving family and congregation.

ON THE DEATH OF DR. MAXIE C.
SPROTT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding career of Dr. Maxie C. Sprott, who unfortunately passed away this week. During a tenure of forty-five years, Dr. Sprott dedicated his time to make sure that those members of his community unable to afford health care, received the proper medical treatment they deserved.

Dr. Sprott, with the help of his brothers, opened Sprott Hospital in 1955 to give black residents a place to receive medical care and black doctors a place to practice. He also was heavily involved with the "I have a Dream" program, providing mentoring and educational service to young people. Despite these great achievements, he was a humble man, accepting such items as poultry and fish as pay from patients when they could not afford office visits.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Maxie Sprott's career was seasoned with numerous examples of selfless hard work and extraordinary achievement in service to our great Nation. His contributions to Southeast Texas are immeasurable. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Dr. Sprott for his enduring service in the field of medicine and the generations of families that he took care of.

Thank you for your service, Dr. Sprott, your work was part of the fiber of Southeast Texas, and with your passing a great loss will be felt in the spirit and the heart of our community.